

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 1**  
**INCIDENT NO. 2004-055**  
**DATE: July 12, 2004      Time 5:00 p.m.**

**TO:** Governor John Hoeven  
State Capitol  
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** **Severe Summer Storms** – On July 11-12, thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains, high winds and hail, causing power outages, damaging trees, crops, and property.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** No deaths or injuries have been reported.
3. **DAMAGES:** High winds of up to 80 miles per hour (mph) have been identified as the source of most damage throughout northwest and north central North Dakota. There have also been reports of hail and locally heavy rains. County emergency managers continue to report tree and property damage as local clean up efforts progress. Power companies are restoring power following outages in Renville County.

**Billings County:** The Billings County Emergency Manager reported the City of Medora experienced heavy rain and 60-plus mph winds, with a report of golf-ball-size hail west of the city.

**Bottineau County:** The Emergency Manager's Situation Report revealed most of the towns having trees down as a result of strong winds, recorded in excess of 65 mph. Details include: three barns down east of Mohall, a farmer's shop building damaged, four new 60,000 bushel grain storage buildings valued at approximately \$300,000 totally destroyed at Renville Corner (10 miles east of Mohall), two 30,000 bushel grain storage buildings were destroyed and the metal was ripped from a shop near Souris. Debris from structures destroyed at an abandoned farmstead east of Souris is scattered over a wide area. Signs throughout the area have been damaged. A semi truck was overturned by the winds. On and near Lake Metigoshe, many boats, piers and trees were damaged, along with some structural damage to cabins. The Metigoshe Park Ranger reported damage sustained at the State Park was mostly due to fallen trees. Three cabins and a vault toilet have fallen trees on them. Approximately 100 trees were knocked down by high winds.

**Golden Valley County:** The Emergency Manager reported a severe thunderstorm and possible tornado demolished grain bins, collapsed buildings, downed power and telephone lines, and damaged trees. Winds, recorded in excess of 70 mph, were accompanied by hail and heavy rains. It's speculated a tornado struck some of the downed buildings. Suspected tornado damage appears to run in a line from Golva to Trotters.

**McHenry County:** The Emergency Manager reported strong winds and rainfall measuring from 0.40 to 1 inch across the county. Damage included trees down, shingles damaged and a pole barn blown down.

**Oliver County:** The Situation Report from the Oliver County Emergency Manager detailed the southwest and western parts of the county had received some damaging weather on July 11. Golf-ball-size hail and strong wind gusts produced damage and some property damage to seven Oliver County farms, which included 900 acres and some home damage.

**Renville County:** The Emergency Manager reported winds in excess of 80 mph following a tornado warning issued by the NWS. Damages include: power outages in Tolley and surrounding areas; the Renville County Emergency Response Trailer damaged beyond use; a residence south of Mohall and garage were damaged; tree damage in Mohall, Tolley and many county farmsteads; grain bins were destroyed in a area between Tolley and Mohall; Production Services chemical storage building was destroyed (no chemicals were released); and a barn holding livestock collapsed. After the barn roof was lifted all livestock were removed though one animal may succumb to injuries. Crop damage is currently being assessed.

4. **RESOURCES:**

**LOCAL:** County road departments, law enforcement and fire departments in affected counties are responding to requests for assistance. In Renville County power companies have restored power to affected areas.

**STATE:** Monitoring the situation are the North Dakota Division of Emergency Management/State Radio, North Dakota Highway Patrol, North Dakota Department of Human Services, and North Dakota Department of Transportation.

**FEDERAL:** The National Weather Service (NWS) has issued periodic weather reports. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the Department of Homeland Security is monitoring the situation.

5. **VOLUNTEER ACTION:** Several individuals in Golden Valley County have helped load debris and clean streets. In Renville County, the American Red Cross has been contacted to aid an individual who was displaced from his/her home.
6. **MAJOR ACTIONS:** Clean up is under way in Bottineau County. City and county crews in Renville County are cleaning up debris. The Montana Dakota Utilities and Burke Divide Cooperative restored power to areas in Renville. The North Dakota Department of Transportation provided crews to the cities of Kenmare and Bowbells in Renville County to help clean up downed trees after high winds struck those communities early July 12. The Division of Emergency Management/State Radio is gathering information from local emergency managers and other responders.
7. **ASSISTANCE NEEDED:** No outside assistance has been requested.
8. **OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE:** None.
9. **OTHER INFORMATION:** As the thunderstorm system moved east across North Dakota the National Weather Service (NWS) issued a flood watch for eastern North Dakota on Monday morning. Rainfall amounts of one to three inches were forecast. Strong thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains in portions of Richland and Sargent counties early Monday morning.

The North Dakota Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director